

# Nature based solutions for climate adaptation and resilience in rural areas in the Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA) and Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) Regions

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**Tony Simons**

**Executive Director CIFOR-ICRAF**

Tony Simons has worked for over thirty years on issues at the agriculture/forestry interface. This experience has been gained in the private sector (Shell), academia (University of Oxford), official development assistance (ODA/DFID) and R&D (CIFOR-ICRAF). He holds a Bachelor's from Massey University (NZ), a PhD degree from Cambridge University and an Honorary Professorship in Tropical Forestry at Copenhagen University. He has published over 150 research papers and has mentored dozens of young scientists in developing countries. Tony is passionate about the transformative change that private sector can bring to development based on partnerships with CEMOI, MARS Inc, Danone and Unilever. He sits on various Boards and Investment Committees including TEEB, Global Restoration Council, ACTS, Livelihoods Fund, and Tropical Landscape Finance Facility. In 2020, Tony was made a life-time Fellow of Swedish Royal Academy of Agriculture and Forestry.



**Andrea Erickson-Quiroz**

**Managing Director for Water Security at The Nature Conservancy**

Andrea Erickson-Quiroz currently serves as Managing Director for Water Security at The Nature Conservancy. She leads TNC's team of freshwater scientists, policy experts, economists and on-the-ground conservation practitioners. The team is working to identify, test and deploy innovative, large-scale strategies that demonstrate how investments in nature will enable us to secure the water we need to prosper. Andrea is a co-author of Beyond the Source, TNC's flagship report on nature-based

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solutions for water security. She is a member of advisory councils such as the CEO Water Mandate and AB InBev's Global Advisory Council. Andrea is also Deputy Director of TNC's Provide Food and Water Sustainably priority, supporting the management of our global teams working on provisioning sectors: freshwater, agriculture and fisheries. Much of the work under this pillar includes the engagement of the private sector as a critical lever for change in solving the world's greatest environmental challenges. This includes working with companies to incorporate nature into their business practices, connecting them to our on the ground work, and engaging corporations in policy. Andrea has an MPhil in Environmental Policy and Economic Development from Cambridge University and an undergraduate degree in Industrial and Labor Relations from Cornell University.



**Claus Reiner**

**IFAD Country Director, Brazil**

Claus Reiner leads the IFAD Country Office in Brazil, which is also the region's SSTC and Knowledge Centre. He is responsible for the operations in Brazil and Chile. He has previously been responsible for the Fund's programme in the Southern Cone of Latin America and for the IFAD's portfolios in Mozambique and Angola, Rwanda and Burundi. Moreover, he coordinates the thematic team on indigenous issues in LAC.

Before joining the Fund in 2007, Claus worked as freelance consultant, with the specialization of development economist and rural finance expert, on project design and implementation support, mainly in Asia, Near East and North Africa, and Sub Saharan Africa.

Claus holds a Masters' Degree in International Agricultural Development by the Humboldt University of Berlin, Germany. He did his Undergraduate Studies of Agricultural Sciences at the Technical University of Munich.



**Carolina Zambrano-Barragan**

**Climate Justice Lead at Hivos**

Carolina Zambrano-Barragán is Climate Justice Lead at Hivos. She has over 12 years of experience promoting climate action, innovation and human rights within the public, philanthropic and civil society sectors. Before joining Hivos, Carolina held leadership positions at the national and local levels in Ecuador, including Vice Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation; Undersecretary of Climate Change, and Director of Environmental Policy of the city of Quito. She is a biologist and has a Master in Public Administration (MPA) from Harvard University and a Master of Environmental Management from Yale University.

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### **Dr. Chris Kiptoo**

#### **Principal Secretary Ministry of Environment and Forestry**

Dr. Chris K. Kiptoo, CBS is the Principal Secretary (PS) for the Ministry of Environment and Forestry. He was reassigned to this Ministry by H.E. President in January, 2020. Prior to the new assignment, Dr. Kiptoo was the immediate Principal Secretary, State Department for Trade in the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Cooperatives, he held this docket since December, 2015. At the Ministry, the Principal Secretary has been championing the attainment of increased tree cover in the country by putting in strategies to achieve the important goal of the country. PS is also providing policy guidance to ensure enactment of the sustainable Waste Management Bill 2021 that seeks to establish legal and institutional frameworks for sustainable waste management in the country, so as to ensure realization of a clean and healthy Environment for all as enshrined in the constitution. PS Kiptoo has a lot of passion on environmental conservation. He has been leading efforts to rehabilitate and conserve the Kaptagat Forest ecosystem.



### **Hon. Moses Vilakati**

#### **Minister, Ministry of Tourism and Environmental Affairs (MTEA), Eswatini**

Hon. Moses Vilakati is the Minister for Tourism and Environmental Affairs (MTEA) in Eswatini, a position he has occupied since 2018. From 2013 to 2018, Hon. Vilakati was Eswatini's Minister for Agriculture. He has previously worked as a Project Director in a Government Parastatal, where he steered capacity building and empowerment for smallholder farmers' businesses. He has previously served as a Lecturer at the University of Eswatini. Hon. Vilakati holds a Master of Science in Agriculture Development, obtained in California, USA. He also holds a Masters degree in Business Administration and two diplomas in human resources and project management, from the University of Eswatini.